

Bonjour et bienvenue to
FRENCH ETC.
www.frenchetc.org

Today, Fabienne is at the doctor's office. The culture capsule in the worksheet talks about the French Health Insurance, and lists English-speaking hospital and pharmacy in Paris, along with emergency phone numbers, if you ever need it. The grammar point explains how to describe your pain and injury. There is also a list of body parts and a little exercise and a crossword puzzle to practice all of that and wrap it up.

FRENCH ETC.'s podcasts teach you the latest contemporary French, the way it's spoken on the streets of Paris and in the cafés in Nice, with authentic useful expressions you can use right away.

The worksheet is available to FRENCH ETC. members.

Visit us at frenchetc.org
anne@frenchetc.org

phone tutorial



Chez le docteur

culture capsules clins d'œil culturels

Health Insurance, la sécu, or la Sécurité Sociale refers to the insurance system that covers French people's health, family rearing expenses and retirement. In current French though, it often is synonymous with Health Insurance. La sécu pays for 70 to 80% of doctors' and dentists' visit fees for almost anyone in France - workers and non workers. What is not reimbursed by la sécu, is taken care of by la mutuelle (insurance complement), making health fees virtually €0 for everyone in France. La mutuelle comes from different sources, depending on one's employment situation. People who don't work get la CMU (See next chapter for la CMU).

La CMU, la Couverture Maladie Universelle, allows people of no means to go to the doctor, get medication and go to the hospital without paying up front. In order to get the CMU, you need to reside in France, and to somehow be registered with a branch of the Sécurité Sociale. Homeless people can also get the CMU through their Social Service. You must be over 16 years-old, be independent financially and your monthly revenues need not to be over €606 for one person.

Crise de foie

Ah ! *La crise de foie* ! You've got to know about the *crise de foie* if you want to be part of the culture. *La crise de foie* (literally a liver crisis) is a very dramatic malady which only the French contract. Anywhere you'll be invited for a meal, you will inevitably hear someone complain of suffering from a *crise de foie*. The symptoms are as numerous as they are nebulous. They include one or all of the following: nausea, headaches, heartburn, and sometimes vomiting. Good news if you happened to suffer from the French disease: drink a bottle of *Schoum* and one of *Hepatoum* (Disclaimer – our attorney wants us to state that this is not medical advice!). It's magical. You can find it in all the local pharmacies. After you've been through a *crise de foie*, you'll be certified French.

Useful numbers for emergencies

15 SAMU, ambulance
18 firemen
17 Police
01 47 07 77 77 SOS médecin
01 46 21 46 46 SOS Help (Crisis line in English)

The [American Hospital](#) is located at 63 boulevard Victor Hugo in Neuilly (touching Paris) 01 46 41 25 25

La Pharmacie des Champs Elysées is open 24 hours a day. They speak English-speaking). It is located at 84 av. des Champs Elysées 75008 Tel. (0)1 45 62 02 41

In case of a (real) emergency, there is no need to have a phone card, or money. You can call le SAMU (phone # 15, with your name and address) or *les pompiers* (firemen) (phone # 18).

Of course, the movie "Sicko" by filmmaker Michael Moore, which depicts the non-profit system outside the United States of America.

voc in context

Écoutez la baladodiffusion
/frenchetc.org/ et répétez

remercier --> to thank
rendez-vous (m.) --> appointment
SOS Médecin --> medical emergency hot line
je vous en prie --> you're welcome
cabinet (m.) --> (doctor's or lawyer's) office
salle d'attente (f.) --> waiting room
dommage --> it's a pity
examiner --> to examine
avoir mal à la/au/aux--> to hurt (see grammar point)
ventre (m.) --> stomach
tousse --> to cough
hypertension (f.) --> high-blood pressure
allergique à la/au/aux --> allergic to
tilter [familial] --> to realize
ni... ni... --> neither... nor...
piqûre (f.) --> shot
urgences (f.) --> hospital emergency/room
crise de foie (f.) --> stomach bug
toux (f.) --> cough
rhume (m.) --> cold
ordonnance (f.) --> prescription
prescrire --> to prescribe
sirop (m.) --> syrup
cachet (m.) --> pill
mal/maux (m.) --> ache, pain
sécu (f.) --> social security
CMU (f.) --> health insurance for people of no means
pharmacie (f.) --> pharmacy
se rétablir --> to get better
être sur pied --> to be on one's feet
dès --> as soon as, from ... on

text

Écoutez la baladodiffusion
/frenchetc.org/ et répétez

Chez le docteur
F. Bonjour Docteur. Je vous re-
mercie de m'avoir obtenu un
rendez-vous si rapidement. Je
n'ai pas eu besoin d'appeler
SOS Médecin.
H. Je vous en prie Madame.
Vous avez trouvé le cabinet
facilement ?
F. Oui, pas de problème. Et je
n'ai presque pas attendu dans
la salle d'attente. Domage, il
y avait des magazines super
intéressants.
H. Bien. Je vais vous examiner
maintenant. Qu'est-ce qui
vous amène ?
F. J'ai mal au ventre, j'ai très
mal à la tête et je tousse
beaucoup.
H. Vous avez des antécédents
d'hypertension dans la famille
?
F. Pas que je sache.
H. Vous êtes allergique à l'aspi-
rine ?
F. Non.
H. Et vous avez ces symptômes
depuis combien de
temps ?
F. Depuis 2 semaines.
H. Depuis 2 semaines... Hum,
juste après les fêtes ?
F. Oui, j'avais [je n'avais] pas
tilté.
H. C'est bon, vous n'avez be-
soin ni de piqûre, ni d'aller aux
urgences. C'est une banale
crise de foie.
F. Et la toux, alors ?
H. Un petit rhume. Voilà votre
ordonnance. Je vous prescris
du sirop contre la toux et des
cachets pour lutter contre les
maux de ventre. Vous avez
votre numéro de sécu ?
F. Oui, je suis au régime CMU.
H. Bien. Passez à la pharmacie
et vous vous rétablirez tout de
suite. Vous serez sur pied dès
demain.

text translation

Listen to the podcast
/frenchetc.org/ and repeat

At the doctor's office
F. Good morning Dr. I thank
you for seeing me so quickly. I
didn't need to call the medi-
cal emergency hot line.
H. You're welcome, Madam.
Did you find the office easily?
F. Yes, no problem. And I barely
waited in the waiting room.
Too bad, there were really in-
teresting magazines.
H. Okay, I'm going to examine
you now. What seems to be
the problem?
F. I have a stomach ache, my
head really hurts and I cough
a lot.
H. Do you have a history of
high-blood pressure in your
family?
F. Not that I know of.
H. Are you allergic to aspirin?
F. No.
H. How long have you had
these symptoms for?
F. For two weeks.
H. For two weeks... ... Hmm —
since the holidays?
F. Yes. I hadn't realized that.
H. Okay, you don't need any
shots, nor do you need to go
to the emergency room. You
have a simple case of *crise de*
foie.
F. What about my cough then?
H. A little cold. Here is your pre-
scription. I'm prescribing you
cough sirup and pills for your
stomach ache. Do you have
your Social Security number?
F. Yes, I am under CMU Re-
gime.
H. Okay. Go to the pharmacy
and you'll get better right
away. You'll be on your feet as
soon as tomorrow.

Grammar Point

à vs. au and de vs. du

[Click here for more on this topic](#)

« J'ai mal au ventre »“. ” Prepositions à la, au, aux.

Verbs such as “avoir mal” use the preposition **à** and they work this way:

1. “à” becomes “à la” when the next word is feminine
--> j'ai mal à la tête (“tête” is feminine)
2. “à” becomes “au” when the next word is masculine
--> j'ai mal au ventre (“ventre” is masculine)
3. “à” becomes “aux” when the next word is plural
--> j'ai mal aux dents (“dents” is plural)

Check your knowledge

to have a leg ache --> jambe is feminine --> avoir mal à la jambe

to have a back ache --> dos is masculine --> avoir mal au dos

to be allergic to cats --> chats is plural --> allergique aux chats

Practice

Traduire (translate) les phrases suivantes

1. My teeth ache.
2. You are not allergic to pollen.
3. Where is the doctor's office?
4. It's a pity!
5. They have a cold and a stomach bug.
6. Je n'avais pas tilté que tu toussais autant.
7. On ne veut (Nous ne voulons) ni sirop, ni cachets.

Correction (Answers)

1. J'ai mal aux dents.
2. Vous n'êtes pas allergique au pollen.
3. Où est le cabinet du docteur ?
4. Dommage !
5. Ils ont un rhume et une crise de foie.
6. I didn't realize you were coughing so much.
7. We want neither syrup nor do we want pills.

Vocabulary

Le corps humain - The body

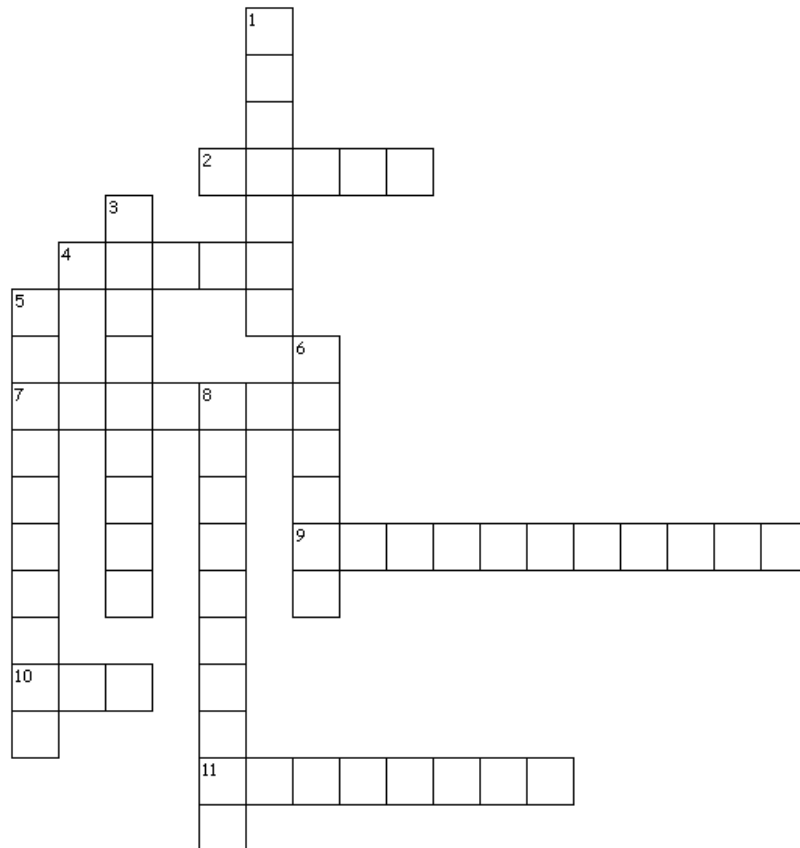
abs	mp	abdo/minaux
ankle	f	cheville
arm	m	bras
back	m	dos
belly button	m	nombril
body	m	corps
body hair	m	poil
breast	m	sein
bust	f	poitrine
buttocks	m	fessier
calf	m	mollet
cheek	f	joue
chin	m	menton
ear	f	oreille
eye/s	m/p	œil/yeux
eyebrows	mp	sourcils
eyelashes	mp	cils
figure	f	silhouette
finger	m	doigt
foot	m	pied
forehead	m	front
head	f	tête
head hair	m/p	cheveu/x
heel	m	talon
hips	fp	hanches
index	m	index

knee	m	genou
leg	f	jambe
lip	f	lèvre
lower-belly	m	bas-ventre
middle finger	m	majeur
mouth	f	bouche
nail	m	ongle
neck	m	cou
nose	m	nez
nostril	f	narine
penis	m	pénis
pinky finger	m	auriculaire
ring finger	m	annulaire
shoulder	f	épaule
skin	f	peau
stomach	m	ventre
thigh	f	cuisse
thumb	m	pouce
toe	m	doigt de pied
tongue	f	langue
tooth	f	dent
vagina	m	vagin
waist	f	taille
wrinkle	f	ride
wrist	m	poignet

Also play the game

<http://quizlet.com/1684753/french-body-parts-flash-cards/>

Game



Fill in the boxes with the clues - in context - provided. Please disregard the accents, and note that dashes occupy a full box in the puzzle. The answers are at the bottom of the page.

Horizontal

- 2. realized
- 4. cold
- 7. it is a pity
- 9. appointment
- 10. health insurance for people of no means
- 11. emergency room

Vertical

- 1. doctor's office
- 3. pharmacy
- 5. prescription
- 6. stomach
- 8. allergic

Answers

Across

- 2. tilté
- 4. rhume
- 7. dommage
- 9. rendez-vous
- 10. CMU

Down

- 1. cabinet
- 3. pharmacie
- 5. ordonnance
- 6. ventre
- 8. allergique